

**Northern
Rivers CMA****Incentives
Program****opening soon**

Opening in May and closing mid June, the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority's Incentives Program will provide \$1.5million in grants across the Northern Rivers region for large and small scale projects that improve the condition and sustainability of our natural resources.

Watch your local paper or the websites below for the advertisement and contact Landcare if you would like help with your application.

northern.cma.nsw.gov.au

hastingslandcare.org.au

65 864 465



LANDCARE
HASTINGS LANDCARE INC

*Supporting Voluntary Natural
Resource Management in the
Hastings, Camden Haven and
Wilson River Catchments*

this issue

Camden Haven Landcare P.2

Bonny Hills Landcare P.4

Lord Howe Island P.6

Stewarts River Restoration P.7

Getting to know your soil

What is soil health and how it is impacted by management? If you want to find out, Comboyne Community Centre and Hastings Landcare are hosting a Soil Health workshop in Comboyne on Monday, May 24th. Soil experts Abigail Jenkins and Rebecca Lines-Kelly will talk about soil quality as determined by soil types, landscape and climate. Plant roots and soil health will feature on the day.

We'll learn how to use the Northern Rivers Soil Health Card, a compilation of soil health indicators that you can assess on your property without expensive or complicated equipment. Erosion basics, including indicators of and measurement of soil loss, causes and cures will be demonstrated on farm. Rebecca and Abigail will visit farms around Comboyne on May 25th where soil health projects, funded by the Northern Rivers CMA are underway.

At Beechwood on May 15th, the preliminary results of the Compost Tea Application Trials will be presented, along with tips and traps of compost tea making. See page 2 for more info.

With funding from the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country program, Hastings Landcare is building on our successful Small Farms weekend that many of our valley's new farmers attended last year.

Small and Sustainable farming workshops to be held over the next few months will focus on managing water in the landscape, climate change adaptation, grazing and pasture management, and biodiversity and livestock health. For more information and to get involved, contact Ann on 0428 864 465.

Stay tuned to share sustainable small farming experiences on our website

Compost Tea Field Day

Beechwood

15 May

Find out how we've modified existing farming gear to apply compost tea without the hassle of staying up late at night or working in the rain.

We're ready to share preliminary results from our study and demonstrate the low-tech modifications to our equipment.

The compost tea brewing process has been a learning exercise and we can share some of the traps and tips we've picked up along the way.



Bacteria feeding nematode from Peter Alison's compost.

Bring along a small sample of your own soil or compost and have a look at your soil biology under the microscope.

Call Landcare on 65 864 465 to book and get directions.



Camden Haven Landcare formed in 1994 is one of the oldest LC groups in the Hastings/Camden Haven/Wilson River catchments and has been a quiet but effective achiever in bringing about important works in farming, urban, public and private lands over the last sixteen years. And over the years we have had the support of many organizations – Hastings Council, Hastings Landcare, Country Energy, and far too many individuals to name here.

During 2009, amongst other works, we were involved with a number of activities from the erection of picnic seating for the Historic Wharf which we had rebuilt in 2006, planting and working on the two acre Rainforest area at Kendall Public School, continuing with the 1.85 km Sullivans Road Camphor Laurel/Privet project at Lorne and our ongoing COK (Carry On Kendall began in 2000) at the entrance to Kendall.

But when invited to rid the Kendall Showground of some of its large Camphor Laurels we saw an opportunity to explore the most effective way to poison CL's.

FIVE WAYS TO KILL A CAMPHOR AT THE SHOWGROUND

What's the best way to poison a large Camphor Laurel Tree? Well if it comes to that, 'How many ways are there to poison a tree?'

Important questions, so when Camden Haven Landcare was asked to poison some Camphor Laurel Trees at the Kendall Showground we thought this was a good opportunity to experiment with different methods that could also be a demonstration site for the many people who visit the Showground. Biactive Roundup (Glyphosate) poison was used in all cases.

Five different approaches were used:

1. Frilling using a tomahawk. Here the operator goes around the base of the tree, roughly 300mm from the ground and gives the tree a blow with the tomahawk just penetrating the bark and into the cambium layer of the tree. This is followed by a squirt of glyphosate. The cuts are about 150mm apart. Advantages? Cheap and quick and one person can do it using a BBQ sauce type container of poison.

The Quiet Achiever

Camden Haven
Landcare Group

2. Using a Tree Spear. This is a commercially available tool. Made of steel, about 1.5m long and 50mm in diameter. It has a strong chisel type tip about 40mm wide and has a hollow centre that is filled with the appropriate poison. You again work around the base of the tree, hitting it with the chisel end of the spear much the same way as the tomahawk but this time a bit closer together. You then squirt a measured dose of glyphosate into the cut. Advantages? One person, done standing up, but tool reasonably heavy and expensive.

3. Cut & Paint. Here the tree is completely cut down and depending on its size a pair of loppers, pruning saw or chainsaw is used. As soon as the tree is cut down (best practice says within 10 seconds) the inside edge of the stump is 'painted' with a brush dipped in glyphosate, a brush width around the edge. Advantages? Always seems to work but need an experienced chainsaw operator, a chainsaw and a second person to 'paint' the stump. Also have to decide what to do with the fallen tree.

4. Drilling holes. This technique is used a lot by

professional regeneration groups. It involves the use of at least an 18v-battery drill or a petrol powered posthole borer. Using a 13mm bit, holes are drilled about 40mm apart to a depth of about 30mm, pretty close to the base of the tree. The holes are filled by a second person with glyphosate. Advantages? Very effective, quick but a two person operation, equipment can be expensive.

5. Spraying small trees. Disadvantages? Spray drift to

other plants. Only suitable for Spraying small trees. Disadvantages? Spray drift to other plants. Only suitable for small trees.

Conclusion:

We have carried out the experiment using the five methods and the effects of the drilling method were visually astounding. We have returned at regular intervals to monitor the results and the most and only totally effective treatment was No. 4 Drilling holes.

OK Nature, the international journal of science, hasn't phoned us for an article but we have poisoned many other CL's in different places and the drilling method is very effective. Next week we return to the Showground to plant six advanced Rainforest shade trees. We figure they'll be doing a great job by 2025. I'll be 87! Hmmm...

I told Christine to get out of the way!

Richard Cullen

Pappinbarra River Reach project celebration

The Field day on Sunday 28th March was a great day with an excellent talk by Bill Peel (Hastings Council Ecologist) followed by a BBQ lunch and cake. A big thanks to Mark Hickson & Kelly Miller for holding this gathering at their place and to Landcare for organising the food. All property owners have been given a detailed report from Wild Things Native Gardens

describing the work we have completed on each of your properties, along with a sign from the Northern Rivers CMA to display at the front of your properties. Over the three year project, funded by the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority, bush regeneration works were undertaken on nine properties along more than nine kilometres of the

Pappinbarra River. Follow-up work by bush regenerators was possible on some sites and the local Pappinbarra community has participated enthusiastically in the project.

Repeated flooding slowed the project last year but the health of the riparian ecosystem has improved and will continue to improve as local landholders are committed to follow-up.



PACT on parade

As part of the Camden Haven Music Festival the Platypus Action and Conservation Team produced and paraded this amazing platypus lantern.

Climate Now snapshot

The CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology have jointly released a six page snapshot of the state of the climate today.

Changes observed include: highly variable rainfall across the country with substantial increases in rainfall in northern and central parts of Australia, as well as significant decreases across much of southern and eastern Australia.

Sea levels have risen rapidly since 1993.

Download the snapshot from www.bom.gov.au.

Caring for our Country Community Action Grants

The Australian Government's Caring for our Country Business Plan outlines priorities for funding environmental projects in 2010-2011.

In our region the plan targets:

increasing native habitat;

reducing the impact of weeds and vertebrate pests;

managing world heritage areas;

increasing coastal community engagement;

improving soil management practices;

improving aquaculture and fishing management;

landscape scale conservation;

improved knowledge and skills and increased participation in natural resource management.

Targeted groups include indigenous land managers, youth and groups of farmers.

Applications for smaller scale funding (Community Action Grants) **will be sought in July.**

Hastings Landcare Individual Membership

Don't have a local Landcare Group but want to be involved in Hastings Landcare?

Hastings Landcare now has individual as well as group membership. Interested? Call the Landcare office on 65 864 465.

Port Macquarie Hastings Council Community Grants

The last round of Port Macquarie Hastings environmental levy funding has been allocated to protection and rehabilitation of riparian forest on the Camden Haven.

In future, funding for environmental projects from Port Macquarie Hastings Council will need to be sought via the Community Grants Program. Community Grants will **open in June** and there will only be one opportunity each year to apply for funding.

If you have a project in mind, get in touch with Landcare now and we can help with your planning and application.



We are almost through the annual flowering season for *Senna pendula* ("cassia") and are pleased to see many fewer of these blooms than in previous years, at least in Bonny Hills. We have been busy removing these weeds from our bushland, and it seems that many residents have also taken the trouble to eradicate them from their gardens.

Senna is proving to be one of the more problematic of our many weed species. For more information about this problem plant please read Estelle Gough's excellent column in the May edition of Focus magazine (Page 92). Unlike bitou and lantana, senna is not particularly susceptible to foliar spraying, making control labour-intensive and time-consuming. Infestations can be very dense with dozens of plants per square metre. Each has to be removed manually, either by uprooting or using cut and

poison techniques. If you have senna on or near your property we are happy to assist in its removal. Just contact us at the number below.

We have been fortunate to secure a \$20,000 grant from the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority to remediate the Rainbow Beach corridor from Middle Rock south to the 1 km marker. Council has augmented this with \$3000 in funds and also will fund the spraying of weeds, mainly bitou and lantana on the frontal dunes. With our Landcare group committed to provide many hours of "in-kind" work the total value of the program is \$32,500 over the next 18 months. This target area supports littoral rainforest and is a vital wildlife corridor. Most of the funds will be expended on bush regeneration teams to remove weeds, notably senna, lantana and morning glory. The southern section has already seen much

Bonny Hills Landcare Group

Tackling Senna in the bush and in backyards

Rainbow Beach remediation

work, funded by Council and the CMA. Weed removal has resulted in a dramatic recovery of native plants, though much yet remains to be done.

In our monthly working bees (usually the first Sunday) we have continued to focus on weed removal behind the beaches and headlands from Short Beach to Duchess Creek. Some areas are now almost weed-free and support healthy regrowth of native vegetation. However we still have much work to do and need new members or volunteer workers to assist us. We provide information in the form of weed identification and methods of control and essential weeding equipment. Satisfaction is guaranteed from the experience of a couple of hours of clearing weeds an area of our wonderful bushland.

Judy Love

Ph: 6585 5678

Mob: 0403818104

North Coast Regional Landcare

The Regional network is off and running with governance matters in place - we have adopted a Constitution and Incorporated.

As a network we now have 14 member networks from the Northern Rivers CMA region. Membership is \$50/yr

Three meetings have been held so far and we have utilised VoIP technology - SKYPE- for free conference calling. This has reduced the amount of time spent travelling for meetings.

Office bearers are:

Chairman - Brian Dodd, Clarence Valley Landcare President

Vice President - Colin Matthews, Bellinger Landcare Community Support Officer

Secretary - Daintry Gerrand, Vice President Hastings Landcare

Treasurer - Craig Stehn, Coffs Harbour Landcare Community Support Officer

Brian and Daintry are the representatives to Landcare NSW Inc.

We have received a \$5,000 one-off grant from the Northern Rivers CMA for establishment and secretariat support and have submitted to Aust Govt Dept of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry to host the 1 of the 56 Regional Landcare Facilitator Positions being offered by that Dept.

The objectives of the regional network are to:

a. Present a regional Landcare voice in communication with the CMA and other industry partners

b. Present a regional Landcare voice to Landcare

NSW, Local, State and federal Government representatives and bodies / organisations.

c. Provide support and facilitate training for members

d. Communicate and network information and ideas amongst members

e. Facilitate regional scale Landcare and natural resource management

Hastings Landcare and the Regional Network are your 'conduit' for information and support. If your group has some specific needs or ideas - please send through some information so that we can try to sort out some opportunities - these could be emailed through to the Hastings Landcare Office .

Daintry Gerrand

Waterwatch DVD released

For people who have been trained in Waterwatch water quality monitoring, a new DVD is available to jog your memory on some of the techniques. Starring our local Waterwatch coordinator, Carla Sbrocchi, it is undoubtedly informative and easy to follow.

If you would like to receive Waterwatch training, call Carla on 65614965 or Landcare on 65 864 465.

Holistic Management at Wauchope TAFE

Our participants in the inaugural Wauchope TAFE Holistic Management course graduate in July. This course has been immensely successful and due to considerable interest in Holistic Management and ways to better manage our environment, I am starting to plan dates for our next course in the Hastings area. Fortunately, further funding has been sourced for this very valuable training, so the course is still priced at the TAFE semester administration fee of \$219. This covers 14 days of training and all training materials, including the text book and handbook, as well as all catering during the training.

Proposed training commences 19 and 20 July and concludes in November.

Between sessions we will be holding teleconferences to keep in touch and help with the application of the new knowledge. The training sessions will be held at convenient central locations around the Wauchope region.

If you would like to join this exciting learning opportunity please email me your intention and I will keep you posted as the training evolves. I leave you with a quote from Julie Brady and Felicity Carter, participants in the current TAFE Holistic Management training:

"The Holistic Management course delivered by Inside Outside Management under the TAFE umbrella has far exceeded our expectations! We have learned an enormous amount about what a healthy environment is, what a productive pasture looks like, and how to achieve them. This carries over to include a better understanding of animal health and nutrition achieved with little or no chemical interventions. The fundamental concepts of Holistic Management are powerful and persuasive, and the knowledge and tools taught in the course allow a keen novice and seasoned professional alike to get started straight away.

We have already begun the process of mending past (inadvertent) sins and omissions, and can see the beneficial impact in only a few short months. We now have a wonderful decision-making tool to allow us to resolve a problem or test an idea, or ideas, taking all of the key factors: the environment; the cost and funding sources; the impact; and our long term "life goals", into account.

The current and last segment of the course, Financial Planning, will allow us to keep within known and viable financial parameters.

In summary, we are delighted to be doing the course, and excited about the new knowledge and tools we have gained.

Julie and Felicity

For more information contact Brian Wehlburg INSIDE OUTSIDE MANAGEMENT brian@insideoutsidemgt.com.au Ph: 6587 4353 visit us on the web at www.insideoutsidemgt.com.au

Protecting Island Ecology—

Background to the weed program

Lord Howe Island covers an area of 1455 ha (11km long & up to 2.8km wide) and is situated about 760km north east of Sydney. A number of smaller offshore islands lie adjacent to main island which comprise the Lord Howe Island Group. The Island Group is World Heritage Listed being renowned for its unique beauty, ecological values and high level of species endemism. At least 47% of its vascular flora is endemic. The island also provides significant breeding habitat for sea birds and a number of endemic land birds including the endangered Lord Howe Island Woodhen.

An Island wide approach to weed management

Weed invasions have been identified as a primary threat (along with rodents) to the integrity of the Islands ecology. The majority of weeds on LHI are fleshy fruited and are dispersed by birds. To achieve eradication requires a landscape/ Island wide approach to weed control.

Since 2004 the Lord Howe Island Board (LHI Board) has been embarking on an ambitious strategy to eradicate key noxious and environmental weeds from across the entire Island. The weed management strategy has been funded through the LHI Board with significant resourcing from Federal & State Government Agencies for on ground works. The combination of financial contributions from the LHI Board and Government has resourced the primary control of woody weeds from at least 80% of the island and the follow-up of weed blocks across 40% of the island.



Lord Howe Island Board is undertaking extensive work with its noxious and environmental weed eradication program. As a part of this project, funds are available to cover airfares, accommodation and meals for selected volunteers.

***** A high level of fitness, enthusiasm and humour is essential *****

WRITTEN APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED and volunteers will need to address the selection criteria available from Hank Bower or Sue Bower at the Lord Howe Island Board.

Volunteers will be required to commit to:

- Working in remote, rugged terrain under difficult field conditions and using herbicide;
- Working as a team alongside local Board staff (ie. working the same hours 7am to 3pm, Monday to Friday);
- To undertake weed control works as directed by the Board;
- Undertaking bush regeneration activities in a safe and productive manner;
- Minimum 20 days of volunteer work for a 28 day project;
- Provide your own work clothing, day pack (long sleeve shirts, pants, boots, hat, wet pants & rain coat).

As a part of this project the following will be provided:

- Airfares (Sydney/Port Macquarie/Brisbane - LHI

return);

- Basic accommodation at the Research Facility (share rooms with bunks, with share bathroom & kitchen facilities);
- Food costs are covered (\$20/day allocation), volunteers do their own shopping and cooking;
- Tools, gloves, herbicide & safety equipment as required;
- Induction training;
- Opportunity to undertake nature based activities on the Island.

For any further information please contact Hank Bower or Sue Bower at the Lord Howe Island Board on (02) 6563 2066.
hank.bower@lhib.nsw.gov.au
or sue.bower@lhib.nsw.gov.au



Cherry Guava—the ultimate ecosystem invader. Since 2004 up to 500,000 individual plants have been removed. This plant is targeted for eradication.

Preventing new weed introductions

The LHIB is taking a holistic approach to the management of weeds on the Island through the adoption of Quarantine regulations and the LHI Board Plant Importation Policy where

Lord Howe Island

Volunteer Opportunities

all proposed plant imports must undergo a weed risk assessment to prevent new pest plant introduction and invasion.

The role of volunteers & community

Lord Howe Island is a special place for the local residents many of whom are directly descended from the early settlers of the Island. The Island is also significant to the many visitors who come to enjoy the unique environment. Local people play an important role in the control of noxious weeds from their leases and in their support for the program which helps to protect the natural values and the tourism potential of the Island.

The LHI Board realises the valuable contribution volunteers can make to the weed eradication program. This not only provides value for money in on ground outcomes but importantly provides for cross pollination of ideas and capacity building of local staff.

The LHI Board volunteer program provides up to 20 volunteer positions for the year. Persons engaged are required to formally apply with preference to those with skills and experience in bush regeneration.

Stewarts River Restoration Grants

The NRCMA has implemented 'Targeted' investment within the Stewarts River subcatchment since the 05-06 investment year. Daintry Gerrand of ID Landscape Management P/L has been the Contractor since the Targeted Rivers project commenced.

The river stretches some 50 km from its upper reaches through its mouth into the Watson Taylors Lake. The river system has been documented as structurally stable (Telfer and Cunial) with a well forested upper catchment in Coorabakh National Park and Comboyne State Forest.

This project has progressively built on the outcomes of earlier devolved Grant projects such as the Riverhealth and Erosion Control Grants and Voluntary Streamcare Grants Scheme. Information and community capacity developed from this project also contributed to the regional Dairy Advancement Group procuring NLP funding for the dairy farmers within the valley to undertake NRM works .

Since the mid-1990's, and prior to the above-mentioned grant schemes, there had been considerable activity by local Landcare Groups (Wharf Rd

Landcare Group and HannamVale Landcare Group).

The areas of the Stewarts River and its tributaries – Deep Creek and Jerrys Ck, which are outside of State Forest and National Park Estate combine to a total of 47.93 kms. When considering both sides of the stream this equates to 95.86 km.

Since 1995 – some 56 grant funded projects are known to have improved management by weed control, exclusion of stock and installation of alternative watering points and bank and bed stabilisation works, along 38.12% of stream length.

The works proposed for 2010 will raise the overall works area to 39.29 km or 40.12% having grant funded NRM works undertaken along the riparian zone.

[there is also considerable activity by private landholders which is not captured in these figures.]

THREATS to BIODIVERSITY

The existing main threat to biodiversity along the Stewarts River is the encroachment of weeds – Pink Lantana *Lantana*

camara (WONS weed) and Small-leaved Privet *Ligustrum sinense* which have significant levels of infestation along the main and tributary riparian corridors. Small-leaved Privet is considered to be the more extensively naturalised of these two species and posing the greatest current threat.

The EMERGING threat to biodiversity in this valley is Camphorlaurel *Cinnamomum camphora*. At present this weed species is relatively localised in the Stewarts River valley however it does have significant potential to invade extensively as has occurred in the Lorne area of the Camden Haven River catchment.

A Field Day on Woody Weed Control, targeting Camphorlaurel is proposed for July, 2010.

Landholders wishing to submit an Expression of Interest for future works should contact Project Officer - Daintry Gerrand on 65 565 099 (business hours).

Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife Small Grants Program

Looking for support for your project? The Small Grants Program of the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife might be able to help.

The Foundation welcomes funding proposals for nature conservation projects across Australia.

Who can apply?

Support for owners of covenanted properties in NSW to conduct habitat or species conservation projects on their property.

Small grants of up to \$3,000 are available for Private Land Conservation Grants.

Applications for 2010 are now open.

Applications close 30th June 2010.

Find out more www.fnppw.org.au

Indian Myna update

Hastings Landcare and Macleay Landcare Network are working on an application to the NSW Government Environmental Trust to fund an Indian Myna monitoring and control program across the valleys.

Volunteer local area co-ordinators and individuals are continuing to trap and monitor Myna populations. Information, resources and traps are available through the Hastings Landcare office and websites

hastingslandcare.org.au;

Indianmyna.org.au

Biological control training to assist with the redistribution of successful bitou bush agents

An overview of biological control of Bitou Bush, covering identification, rearing and release of the agents. The main focus will be on the rearing and distribution of the Tortrix moth. Participants will be trained to rear and release the moth and can discuss opportunities to establish nurseries where agents can be reared in perpetuity. There will also be an introduction to Weed Warriors - a programme for school students to learn about and participate in biological control.

The workshops will finish with a short field visit to a Bitou Bush site, where biological control agents may be identified.

For further information contact Lesley Postle on (02) 4588 2113 or lesley.postle@industry.nsw.gov.au.

Great Lakes 8 June 2010; Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie, Kempsey July-August 2010



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open Tuesday to Friday

Important Dates

Compost Tea and Soil Biology Field Day, Beechwood	15 May
Soil Health Workshop, Comboyne	24-25 May
Hastings Landcare General Meeting, Wauchope	16 June
Northern Rivers CMA incentives Program CLOSING	JUNE
Port Macquarie Hastings Community Grants OPENING	JUNE
Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife Grants CLOSING	30 June
Caring for Our Country Community Action Grants OPENING	JULY
Holistic Management, Wauchope TAFE commences	19 July
Hastings Landcare Annual General Meeting, Wauchope	18 August

MISSING OUT ON THE COLOUR?

You can access this newsletter in full colour on our website www.hastingslandcare.org.au. If you would prefer us to notify you by email when the newsletter is posted then let us know. We are striving to reduce the amount of paper we consume in this production and you can help! Thanks

LANDCARE COMMUNITY NURSERY

*A community nursery for
community re-vegetation projects*

The role of the nursery is to provide indigenous plants grown from local provenance. This not-for-profit nursery enables your project's funding to go further.

Address: NPWS Area Depot, end of Blackbutt Rd, Port Macquarie
Times: Monday morning 9am—12 noon
Other times by arrangement
Contact: Estelle Gough
6583 6508 / 0432 141605

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